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# REGIONAL NEWS

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Editorial

Dear readers,

I am wishing all the Swiss living in Southern Africa a great 2018... and to everyone in Cape Town an especially WET year to make it through the water crisis!

Happy reading,

Gisela Piercy



GISELA PIERCY,  
EDITOR SWISS REVIEW  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Five medals for Swiss Paralympic Team

The members of the Swiss Paralympic team, accompanied by a delegation, attended the World Cup of Para-cycling in Pietermaritzburg from 31th August to the 3rd September 2017. After very intensive training in the paraplegic center in Nottwil in the canton of Lucerne, it was a very successful participation with exceptional results. They were very proud to announce that they went home with great results.

Benjamin Früh won a gold and a silver medal, and also obtained the world cup title for the first time. Although he was delighted to be world champion, he said during an interview that he kept his focus on the next race during which he took

the second place.

Sandra Graf, who has had a long standing career as an athlete received a silver medal, and Heinz Frei, also a well-known athlete won a silver and bronze medal in their respective category.

Between the races, they also visited the Nelson Mandela monument in Howick where the below photo was taken, had the opportunity of meeting Consul François Duvanel and Honorary Consul in Durban, Carin Riederer, whom both congratulated them most warmly for their outstanding achievement.

Great races, great performances and a great victory!

ASO Activities during 2017 From July to November this year, I have held various information sessions in Durban (July), Johannesburg (September) and Polokwane (November) together with François Duvanel, Head of the Consular Region Southern Africa.

The topics covered by us were:

- Automatic Information Exchange SARS – CH
- Voting in Switzerland, overview and perspectives
- Banking Facilities for Expats
- Swiss citizen Act effective 1.1.2018
- Presentation Regional Consular Centre South Africa and various consular matters

We had a range of very successful presentations, which were taken up enthusiastically by the various



Exceptional results for the Swiss Paralympic team

Swiss Review / January 2018/No.1

Swiss Expat communities. Aspects which drew the most request for further information were the banking issues and the changes to the Swiss Citizen Act, which come into effect on January 1, 2018.

From Marcie my colleague and myself, we wish all Swiss living in Southern Africa a great 2018!

Hans-Georg Bosch  
Delegierter des Auslandschweizerrats für das südliche Afrika

### Important information

The Regional Consular Center Southern Africa in Pretoria and the General Consulate in Cape Town would like to inform you about the new requirements for the registration of civil status changes in South Africa (Birth, Adoption, Marriage, Civil Union, Divorce or Death). Only original documents with a seal and a signature of the competent Officer of the Department of Home Affairs or the Registrar of the (high) court in charge, issued less than 6 months ago, can be accepted. The documents will not be returned to you.

Please note that the competent Cantonal Civil Status Authorities may request additional documents. For further information, please consult our updated internet website: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/south-africa/en/home.html>

### Message from new Cape Town Consul General

Dear fellow Swiss citizens,  
I hope that this communication finds you well and that you are doing great. As your new Consul General, I am very pleased to introduce to you the latest edition of the

traditional newsletter of the Swiss Consulate General in Cape Town. Switzerland has, compared to its size (41'000 km<sup>2</sup>) and the number of inhabitants (8.2 mio.), a relatively extended network with over 150 representations (Embassies, Multilateral Missions, Consulate Generals) around the world. This important number of offices all over the world helps us to stay in close contact with the over 750'000 Swiss citizens who live outside of our home country.

Some 25 years ago, the Swiss Foreign Ministry started introducing the Information Technology (IT) at the headquarters in Switzerland as well as at its representations abroad. The use of this modern technology plays more and more an important role in the communication and the treatment of data in to-day's world.

In the next months and years ahead, as technical transformation continues, IT will affect the way we are communicating with you, our fellow Swiss citizens.

The introductions of the online desk, the e-voting or the electronic Swiss identity card, just to mention a few.

This said, the human being is still the main focus of the work of our administration. Even though you might be asked more frequently to submit information electronically, you will still have the possibility and the opportunity to contact us by phone or to come personally to our offices.

We gladly assist and meet our fellow citizens at the Consulate General. As we did in the past, we will still continue to organize the so called Consular Days in our allocated Consular Districts, the Eastern Cape and Namibia. I am looking forward to continue meeting a great number of you personally and I wish you and your families a wonderful festive season and already now an excellent start into the New Year.

### New ASO delegate from Mauritius

To celebrate the nomination of Mr. Pierre-Yves Roten, President of the Club Suisse Maurice ([facebook.com/swissclubmauritius](https://facebook.com/swissclubmauritius)) as the new Delegate of the Association of the Swiss abroad for Mauritius, the Head of the Regional Consular Center Southern Africa, Mr. François Duvanel, Mr. Hans-Georg Bosch, the delegate of the ASO for Southern Africa and the Club Suisse Maurice organized a presentation on 7th December 2017 in Port Louis.

Different interesting topics, relevant to the Swiss residing in Mauritius were addressed (automatic information exchange, banking facilities, votation, changes in law on nationality and different consular matters). This followed by a lively reception, which gave the opportunity for the numerous participants to network and discuss these topics with the coordinators.

The Organization of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) represents the interests of the Swiss residents abroad. It informs them about what is happening in Switzerland and provides them with a wide



Interesting presentation in Port Louis (Photo: F. Duvanel)

## Upcoming consular days in Durban and Windhoek

Please note the Consular Consultation Days in Durban from 30 - 31 January and in Windhoek from 19 - 21 March.

The Regional Consular Centre of the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria will be holding Consular Consultation Days at the Benjamin Boutique Hotel in Durban on 30 and 31 January, 2018. Swiss citizens living in the Eastern Cape have the opportunity to have their biometric data captured for the issuance of a Swiss passport or ID card in Durban instead of flying to Cape Town. An information e-mail was sent out on 19 October.

The Consulate General in Cape Town will be holding Consular Consultation Days at the Avani Hotel, 129 Independence Avenue in Windhoek, Namibia from 19 – 21 March 2018. Swiss citizens from Namibia will have the opportunity to renew their passports as we will have a mobile passport station to capture the biometric data. Two of our consular officers will also be available for other matters (registration of marriage, birth) etc. Swiss citizens living in Namibia will receive a letter and a form in order to arrange an appointment. We are looking forward to seeing our compatriots in Namibia. Please note that we can only issue a Swiss passport once your civil status has been updated (e.g. marriage/divorce and change of surname) has been registered with the authorities in Switzerland).

For children born to Swiss citizens, a Swiss passport can only

be issued once the birth has been registered with the authorities in Switzerland.

For information regarding the registration of civils status events, please do not hesitate to contact us (cap.vertretung@eda.admin.ch).

## Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition - 'Science has no borders'

Under the motto 'Science has no borders' the Akademik Treshnikov, a Russian research ship, set sail on the 20 December 2017 from the port of Cape Town for the three-month Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition.

On board were over 120 people: some 60 researchers from 30 different countries and about the same number of crew members. It was the first project by the Swiss Polar Institute (SPI) in collaboration with Frederik Paulsen, a businessman and major philanthropist with extensive experience in Arctic exploration, and additional support provided by Presence Switzerland, a unit of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It was a voyage to collect data to improve our understanding of the impact of climate change in the Southern Ocean. This expedition also demonstrated the importance of international collaboration in science.

With 22 different research projects on board bridges were built between the various scientific fields and the foundation set for future collaborations at an

international level – true to the motto 'Science has no borders'. For more information visit the website <http://spi-ace-expedition.ch/>

## House of Switzerland at the V&A Waterfront

A few days prior to the departure of the Akademik Treshnikov, the House of Switzerland (HoS) was set up in the heart of the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town.

It was the meeting point and social hub of all the activities around the Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE). Two branded shipping containers were the eye catcher and attracted hundreds of visitors to the House of Switzerland. Visitors could not only learn about the scientific collaboration between South Africa and Switzerland but experience Swiss hospitality at the House and receive general information about Switzerland. An expedition was set up inside the two containers with panels about Swiss Polar Research and the Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition and its 22 research projects.

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## IMPRESSUM

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**NEXT DEADLINES - 2018**

Issue	Next Deadline	Distribution
SR 02/18	27/02/2018	29/03/2018
SR 03/18	23/04/2018	28/05/2018
SR 04/18	27/08/2018	29/09/2018

FOR ADDRESS CHANGES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICIAL SWISS REPRESENTATION IN YOUR COUNTRY DIRECTLY.

## Swiss Club info

**SWISS CLUB IN JOHANNESBURG:**  
 Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdijk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Max Waspe 083 412 0161, T 0118053039, [www.swissclubjhb.co.za](http://www.swissclubjhb.co.za), Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, [www.dining-out.co.za](http://www.dining-out.co.za) «The Courier».

Please visit our website for information and updates on events at the club. Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month for Lunch. Swiss Ladies meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month for lunch. Swiss Rifle Club Johannesburg: We shoot every 4th Sat of the month, from 9am. We normally shoot two different programs, with Swiss rifles, provided by the club. Visit our Facebook site or call Daniel: 082-5699146.

**SWISS CLUB IN PRETORIA:**  
 Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, [swissclub.pta@hbosch.com](mailto:swissclub.pta@hbosch.com), Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary [bvrooyen@gmail.com](mailto:bvrooyen@gmail.com) Facebook group: Swiss Club Alpina.

2017 was another eventful year for the Swiss Club Pretoria. Complementary to our other activities we have for the first time held an event specifically for our younger members. This was held at the Swiss Club Johannesburg Restaurant and Skittling Alley. François Duvanel, our Consul General was also there. On another very sad note, we have to inform you, that Werner Berger, long time member of the Swiss Club Pretoria, passed away in late September. Our heartfelt condolences to his wife Margrit and family. Hans-Georg Bosch, President.

**SWISS CLUB IN CAPE TOWN:**  
 Swiss Social&Sports Club, Green Point Common, Off Bill Peters Road, Green Point, PO Box 2279, Cape Town 8000, T 0214348405 [www.swissclub.co.za](http://www.swissclub.co.za). PRESIDENT: Nicky Rodrigues [president@swissclub.co.za](mailto:president@swissclub.co.za). C 082

921 7729. VICE PRESIDENT/ Treasurer: Andreas Reichmuth, [treasurer@swissclub.co.za](mailto:treasurer@swissclub.co.za). C 083 297 3803. SECRETARY/ASO Representative: Marcie Bischof, [aso@swissclub.co.za](mailto:aso@swissclub.co.za), [catering@swissclub.co.za](mailto:catering@swissclub.co.za). C 076 389 7824. To receive the “newsflash” contact the club at [catering@swissclub.co.za](mailto:catering@swissclub.co.za) or on 0214348405.

The Swiss club Cape Town is open for dinner every Thursday evening. Every 1st Thursday of the month is Pensioner's Lunch. Join the Swiss Jass players every LAST thursday of the month. There is much more happening at our club, meeting friends, host a party, club events etc. For more information, please send an email to: [info@swissclub.co.za](mailto:info@swissclub.co.za)

**SWISS CLUB NATAL:**  
 President Philippe Lanz C 082 4932673, T 031 765 1625, [p.lanz@absamail.co.za](mailto:p.lanz@absamail.co.za)  
*Sport target shooting* – usually held fourth Saturday of the month at Nottingham Road Shooting Range. Please refer to the Target Shooting Calendar on the website. *Jassen evenings* held second Friday of each month commencing 12<sup>th</sup> January at the LAPA, Ethelbert Village, 5 Park Road, Malvern, commencing 7 p.m. *Francofete* -Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. *Outing* - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April TBA. *Champgne beach breakfast* - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 9 a.m. Amanzimtoti Beach Picnic area. *OUTING* – 17<sup>th</sup> June – TBA. *Cheese fondue evening* – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July – 7 p.m. at Augusta Estate, Gillitts. *Swiss National Day* – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July – 10 a.m. – Von Moos Farm, Drummond. *Outing* – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August – TBA. *Outing* – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September – TBA. *Outing* – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November – TBA. *Year End Braai* – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 11 a.m. – Krantz Kloof. *Swiss film evening* – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – 6 p.m. – Point Yacht Club. *OUTING* – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – TBA. *AGM* – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – 10.30 a.m. – Augusta Estate, Gillitts. *Important notice:* \*For more up-to-date information regarding changes of dates/times/venues/directions/maps etc., please visit our informative website – [www.swissclubnatal.org.za](http://www.swissclubnatal.org.za)

**SWISS CLUB PORT ELIZABETH:**  
 John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 413792421, [johndiener@bluewin.ch](mailto:johndiener@bluewin.ch); comm.member Mark Krebsen

C 0823214693, T w 0413671422; Heidi Schultes, secretary, C 0613696598.

Once again we got together to celebrate an “old custom” - the now already traditional fondue meal. Approximately 60 club members incl. children participated, which surely speaks for the popularity of this event. A big thank you to all the diligent helpers as well as the dedication of our president which all contributed to the success of the evening. In conclusion to the meal we were animated to sing along to the sound of homely accordion tunes which was cause for additional merriment. Furthermore we were able to greet a few new members - a hearty welcome to the club! We already look forward to our next get-together. Until then our best wishes to all our members and a good start in the new year. Heidi Schultes, Secretary, John Diener, President

**SWISS CLUB EAST LONDON:**  
 c/o Christine and Paul Stiffler, T 0437483542, C 0837008846, C 0832874324, [christinestiffler@telkom.co.za](mailto:christinestiffler@telkom.co.za)

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